

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OES-07 HEW-06 TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

/065 W

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R 142300Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS MEXICO 11726

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: CONCERN ABOUT MEDFLY CAMPAIGN

REF: MEXICO 6626

1. FOLLOWING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE DIRECTOR CAVIN, EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT EFFORTS TO CONTROL MEDFLY IN MEXICO MAY BE FALTERING AND THAT U. S. MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS IF FLY IS NOT ELIMINATED AND CONTINUES TO MOVE NORTHWARD. TO-DATE SOME 69 FLIES HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED INCLUDING SOME NEAR PIJIJAPAN - ABOUT 90 MILES NORTH OF TAPACHULA, CHIAPAS.

2. FOLLOWING RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON OF APHIS OFFICIALS WITH GOM COUNTERPARTS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR MARGAIN, CAVIN AND ASSISTANT AGATT MET WITH SANIDAD VEGETAL (SV) DIRECTOR IN MEXICO CITY JULY 8 TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESENT EFFORTS OF MEDFLY ERADICATION PROGRAM PARTICULARLY MEXICO'S DEVIATING FROM JOINTLY AGREED WORK PLANS AND DECISION TO ACCEPT UNCLASSIFIED

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FAO OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING FOR STERILE FLY REARING PLANT IN TAPACHULA. THIS WOULD UNDERMINE PROPOSED SAN SALVADOR PLANT AND SV APPEARS TO REJECT U. S. OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FOR TAPACHULA PLANT. THERE IS ALSO RISK OF SOME LEAKAGE OF NON-STERILE FLIES FROM PLANT IF TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES NOT MAINTAINED. SV OFFICIALS NOTIFIED THAT APHIS OFFICERS RELUCTANT TO

ASSURE U. S. AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF ADEQUATE PROTECTION FROM INFESTATION THROUGH UNTREATED IMPORTS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE UNLESS APHIS IS A FULL PARTNER IN ALL PHASES OF PROGRAM. HOWEVER, SANIDAD VEGETAL REMAINED FIRM THAT APHIS PARTICIPATION IN MEDFLY PROGRAM IN MEXICO WOULD NOT INCLUDE STERILE FLY RELEASES.

3. FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN CAVIN AND COUNTERPART INDICATE A SOFTENING OF SV'S ATTITUDE AND A DESIRE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS. SV DIRECTOR GUTIERREZ HAS REQUESTED A FURTHER MEETING WITH APHIS TO BE HELD IN SAN ANTONIO ON JULY 20.

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THIS MAY BE APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR FORTHCOMING TRADE TALKS IN ORDER MAKE BROAD RANGE OF GOM OFFICIALS AWARE OF IMPACT OF APPLICABLE PLANT QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO U.S.A. IF APHIS OFFICERS IN MEXICO UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF FREEDOM FROM MEDFLY INFESTATION. ALSO, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS HERE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. MEXICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS (AGATT) ALSO INVOLVED IN JULY 8 TALKS HERE. LUCEY

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